



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/524,601	02/14/2005	Yusei Nishimoto	U 015632-2	6567

140 7590 07/31/2007

LADAS & PARRY
26 WEST 61ST STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10023

EXAMINER

CHAI, LONGBIT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2131

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

07/31/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/524,601

Applicant(s)

NISHIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Longbit Chai

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/6/2005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Applicant's claim for benefit of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a) – (d) is acknowledged.

The application is filed on 2/14/2005 but is a 371 of PCT/JP04/01446 application filed 8/15/2003 and has a foreign priority application filed on 8/28/2002.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1 and 2 are objected to because of the following informalities: "a portion of the contents" should be "a portion of contents".
3. Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities: "if the check funds that the time unit" should be "if the check finds that the time unit".

Any other claims not addressed are objected by virtue of their dependency should also be corrected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2131

4. Claims 1 – 4, 6 and 8 – 17 and 19 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bando et al. (U.S. Patent 5,774,548), in view of Eyer Mark et al. (JAPAN 08-237632, September 1996).

As per claim 1, 2 and 9, Bando teaches a method of transmitting contents, which are to be received at a reception side where a portion of the contents is previewed while the contents are not accessible for playing other than for a preview purpose, comprising the steps of:

encrypting the contents by a first encryption key (Bando: Figure 2 and Column 1 Line 34 – 51: $K_s = 1^{st}$ encryption key);

encrypting the first encryption key and the information indicative of a program attribute by a second encryption key (Bando: Figure 2 and Column 1 Line 36 – 39: $K_w = 2^{nd}$ encryption key), thereby generating first encrypted information;

encrypting the second encryption key and content-usage control information by a third encryption key (Bando: Figure 2 and Column 1 Line 34 – 51: $K_m = 3^{rd}$ encryption key and content-usage control information is considered as part of the contract information), thereby generating second encrypted information, said content-usage control information indicating usage of the contents on the reception side; and

transmitting the encrypted contents, the first encrypted information, and the second encrypted information to the reception side (Bando: Figure 2).

Bando teaches encrypting the first encryption key and the information indicative of a program attribute by a second encryption key (see above). However, Bando does not disclose expressly encrypting the first encryption key and the information indicative of an elapsed time of the contents by a second encryption key; and generating information indicative of an elapsed time of the contents that indicates a relationship between positions on a time axis of the

Art Unit: 2131

contents representing an amount of time that passes as the contents are played and a time count that accrues as a preview time when the contents are previewed.

Mark teaches encrypting the first encryption key and the information indicative of an elapsed time of the contents by a second encryption key (Mark: Abstract, Para [0050] Line 7 – 8 & Bando: Column 1 Line 36 – 39: (a) the period of a free preview as a variable is included in the program attribute and (b) the 1st key (Ks) and the program attribute are encrypted by the 2nd key (i.e. Kw) – see above); and

generating information indicative of an elapsed time of the contents that indicates a relationship between positions on a time axis of the contents representing an amount of time that passes as the contents are played and a time count that accrues as a preview time when the contents are previewed (Mark: Para [0004] Line 9 – 10 and Para [0005] Line 8 – 10: the viewer's preview time is accumulated and the intact preview time left-over is tracked to prevent exceeding the maximum allowed preview time, which is considered as usage control information as part of the contract information).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Mark within the system of Bando because (a) Bando teaches encrypting the content scramble key and the information indicative of program attribute using a work key Kw in a digital broadcast transmitting and receiving system (Bando: Column 1 Line 36 – 39) and (b) Mark teaches the allowable period of a free preview as a variable can be included in the program attribute in a digital broadcast transmitting and receiving system (Mark: Para [0050] Line 7 – 8, Para [0004] and Para [00005]).

As per claim 10, 11 and 20, the claim limitations are met as the same reasons as that set forth above in rejecting claim 1, 2 and 9.

Art Unit: 2131

As per claim 3, Bando as modified teaches said content-transmission control unit generates the information indicative of an elapsed time of the contents such that said time count linearly corresponds to said time axis of the contents (Mark: Para [0050] Line 7 – 8, Para [0004] and Para [00005]: the information indicative points to the amount of the intact preview time left behind the user and that is considered as a time count linearly corresponds to said time axis of the contents).

As per claim 4, Bando as modified teaches said content-transmission control unit generates the information indicative of an elapsed time of the contents such that said time count is not evenly assigned to the said time axis of the contents (Mark: Para [0050] Line 4 – 5, Para [0004] Line 9 – 10 and Para [0005] Line 8 – 10: this is interpreted as the preview time period can be allocated to any portion of the time-slot of a program and is not restricted to the beginning of a program as long as the accumulated arbitrarily selected time slots (i.e. the remained preview time) should not exceed the maximum allowed preview time).

As per claim 6, Bando as modified teaches a preview-purpose content is attached to the contents at a start of the contents (Mark: Para [0050]).

As per claim 8, Bando as modified teaches said transmission unit transmits the second encrypted information separately from the encrypted contents and the first encrypted information in response to a request from the reception side (Bando: the encrypted EMM message is equivalent to the second encrypted information).

As per claim 12, Bando as modified teaches:

Art Unit: 2131

a playing-time counter unit which counts the time count as said portion of the encrypted contents is decoded for playing (Bando: Column 5 Line 59 – 64: charged with elapsed time count); and

a charging unit which charges a fee commensurate with the time count counted by said playing-time counter unit (Bando: Column 59 – 64: the IC card is used for charging fee),

wherein said check unit compares the time count with an authorized-preview time length defined in the content-usage control information, and said charging unit refrains from charging a fee until the time count exceeds the authorized-preview time length (Mark: Para [0050] Line 4 – 5, Para [0004] Line 9 – 10 and Para [0005] Line 8 – 10: the accumulated arbitrarily selected time slots (i.e. the remained preview time) should not exceed the maximum allowed preview time – i.e. an authorized-preview time length).

As per claim 13, Bando as modified teaches said playing-time counter unit counts the time count based on a continuation index that is provided to correspond to a unit time by which said first encryption key changes (Mark: Para [0019] Line 5 : the ECM and Ks key is changed periodically).

As per claim 14, Bando as modified teaches said check unit is provided inside a security module that protects information therein from external access such as to prevent reading of the information (Bando: Column 5 Line 54 – 65: secured IC card).

As per claim 15, Bando as modified teaches said charging unit is provided inside said security module, and generates content-history information by combining the time count counted by the playing-time counter unit with the content-usage control information, said

Art Unit: 2131

content-history information being paired up with content IDs, which are assigned to respective contents (Bando: Column 5 Line 64 – 67 and Mark: Para [0024] Line 8 – 9 and Para [0026]).

As per claim 16, Bando as modified teaches an encrypting unit which encrypts the content-history information and the second encryption key by use of an inherent key kept inside said security module if the check unit finds that the time count is smaller than the authorized-preview time length, the content-history information and the second encryption key encrypted by said encrypting unit being stored in said content storage unit (Bando: Column 5 Line 53 – 67 and Mark: Para [0024] Line 8 – 9 and Para [0026]: the master key K_m is considered as the inherent key and the accounting related information can be stored at the secured IC card).

As per claim 17, Bando as modified teaches the second encrypted information is stored in said content storage unit together with the encrypted contents after encryption by said encrypting unit (Bando: Column 5 Line 53 – 67 and Mark: Para [0024] Line 8 – 9 and Para [0026]: the encrypted contents after encryption can also be watched by using secured IC card and therefore the encrypted contents must be evidently stored in order to monitor properly).

As per claim 19, Bando as modified teaches a request for the second encrypted information is sent to the transmission side via a communication channel if the second encrypted information is not included in the received contents, and a fee for the encrypted contents is charged when said charging unit receives the second encrypted information (Mark: Para [0004] Line 9 – 10 and Para [0005] Line 8 – 10: the request must be made so that the accumulated and remained viewer's preview time can be tracked to prevent exceeding the

Art Unit: 2131

maximum allowed preview time, which is considered as usage control information as part of the contract information).

5. Claims 7 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bando et al. (U.S. Patent 5,774,548), in view of Eyer Mark et al. (JAPAN 08-237632, September 1996), and in view of Wasilewski et al. (U.S. Patent 6,252,964).

As per claim 7, Bando as modified does not disclose expressly the content-usage control information includes a purchase flag for indicating whether the contents are purchased or rented on the reception side, said purchase flag being returned from the reception side for confirmation of a payment of a fee for the contents.

Wasilewski teaches the content-usage control information includes a purchase flag for indicating whether the contents are purchased or rented on the reception side, said purchase flag being returned from the reception side for confirmation of a payment of a fee for the contents (Wasilewski : Column 39 Line 8 – 21 and Column 35 Line 59 – 61).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Mark within the system of Bando as modified because (a) Bando teaches a fee charging method based on the elapsed time watching in a digital broadcast transmitting and receiving system (Bando: Column 5 Line 58 – 64) and (b) Wasilewski teaches the elapsed time watching with respect to a fee charging method can be further depending upon either in a free preview mode or a purchased mode in a digital broadcast transmitting and receiving system (Mark: Column 39 Line 8 – 21 and Column 35 Line 59 – 61).

Art Unit: 2131

As per claim 18, Bando as modified teaches said charging unit sends a notice to the transmission side through a communication channel, said notice indicating whether the encrypted contents are purchased or rented (Wasilewski : Column 39 Line 8 – 21).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed to a method of transmitting contents, which are to be received at a reception side where a portion of the contents is previewed while the contents are not accessible for playing other than for a preview purpose, wherein the content-transmission control unit generates the information indicative of an elapsed time of the contents such that said time count decreases with passage of time on a portion of said time axis of the contents, and increases with passage of time on another portion of said time axis of the contents. The closest prior art, U.S. Pattern 5,774,548 and Eyer Mark et al. (JAPAN 08-237632), fail to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention.

Art Unit: 2131

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Longbit Chai whose telephone number is 571-272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Longbit Chai, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2131
7/20/2007